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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/614,480 | KUSUDA, MASAYUKI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Suezu Ellis | 2878 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed January 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-6 and 8-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a solid state image pickup device comprising a reference voltage for integrating an electric signal from a photoelectric converting circuit being applied to the integrating circuit and an electric potential of the reference voltage being variable wherein the electric signal obtained by integration in the integrating circuit is led to an output circuit and the electric potential of the reference voltage is temporarily changed, in addition to the other limitations of the claim.

With respect to claim 6, prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a solid state image pickup device comprising an MOS transistor to which a predetermined bias voltage is applied and which converts an electric signal output from a photoelectric converting element into an electric signal proportional to a logarithm value of a quantity of incident light so as to output the electric signal, a capacitor in which the electric signal output from the MOS transistor is given to one end so as to be integrated, and a reference voltage whose electric potential is variable is applied to the other end of a

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capacitor and wherein the electric potential of the reference voltage is changed in synchronization with an ON/OFF operation of a switch, in addition to the other limitations of the claim.

With respect to claim 13, prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest a solid state image pickup device comprising a plurality of pixels, an MOS transistor to which a predetermined bias voltage is applied and which converts an electric signal output from a photoelectric converting element into an electric signal proportional to a logarithm value of a quantity of incident light so as to output the electric signal, a capacitor in which the electric signal output from the MOS transistor is given to one end so as to be integrated and of which, a reference voltage whose electric potential is variable is applied to the other end and wherein the electric potential of the reference voltage is changed in synchronization with at least one of the operations of a second switch at the time of an image pickup operation and of detecting a dispersion of sensitivity of the pixels.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone/Fax Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suez Ellis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2868. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm (Monday-Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Stephen B. Allen
Primary Examiner